Of forg'd rebellion with a seal divine,
And consecrate commotion's bitter edge[5] ?

ARCH. My brother general, the commonwealth*
To brother born an household cruelty,
I make my quarrel in particular[6].

5 And consecrate commotion's BITTER EDGE ?] It was an old custom, continued from the time of the first croisades, for the Pope to consecrate the general's sword, which was employed in the service of the church. To this custom the line in question alludes. WARBURTON.

"— commotion's *Utter edge®* " i. e. the *edge of bitter* strife and *commotion;* the sword of rebellion. So, in a subsequent scene:

'* That the united vessel of their blood,"

instead of—

" The vessel of their united blood."

MALONE.

This line is omitted in the folio. BOSWELL.

6 My brother general, &c.—

I make my quarrel in particular.] The sense is this—" My brother general, the commonwealth, which ought to distribute its benefits equally, is become an enemy to those of his own house, to *brothers born,* by giving some to all, and others none: and this (says he) I make my quarrel or grievance that honours are unequally distributed:" the constant birth of male-contents, and the source of civil commotions. WARBURTON.

In the first folio the second line is omitted*, yet that reading, unintelligible as it is, has been followed by Sir T. Hanmer. How difficultly sense can be drawn from the best reading, the explica-? tion of Dr. Warburton may show. I believe there is an error in the first line, which, perhaps, may be rectified thus ;

t My *quarrel* general, the commonwealth,
*s To brother born an household cruelty,,
** I make my quarrel in particular."

That is, *my general* cause of discontent is public mismanagement; my *particular* cause, a domestick injury done to my natural bro- ther, who had been beheaded by the king's order. JOHNSON.

This circumstance is mentioned in the First Part of the play:

** The Archbishop who bears hard
" His brother's death at Bristol, the lord
Scroop.'*

STEEVENS.

The m-caning of the passage appears to me to be this—*' My brother-general (meaning Mowbray, the lord Marischal) makes the misconduct of public affairs, and the welfare of the commu- nity, his cause of quarrel: but my particular cause of quarrel, is

a familv iniurv. the crueltv with which mv real brother has treated; " meaning Lord Scroop. M. MASON.